

432 AND ABOVE EME NEWS

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CONDITIONS: Reports of the European World-Wide (EWW) EME Contest are all very positive. Conditions and weather were right to make the March activity weekend a good one! Many write that activity on 70 cm was better than the last ARRL EME Contest. Stations active on 13 and 6 cm found propagation good as well. I do not have the full picture of contest high scores. HB9Q's score is received thus far. Dan reports 64x31 for 198,400 points. On the microwave bands F2TU reports 13 QSOs on 13 cm and 5 QSOs on 6 cm. A big disappointment was the failure of the 3B8 dxpedition – see the story below. Also see FY5DG's report. It appears that French Guiana will be QRV on 70 cm EME after many years silence. In April contest operation is 23 and 3 cm.

3B8/ON4AME: Johan, ON4ANT on4ant@pandora.be sends the following -- After the disaster (the refusal of the license upon arrival) and the continued stalling from authorities, we reluctantly aborted the dxpedition trip. The contest was over and we didn't want to wait another week to "possibly" get the license. Before we departed from Mauritius, the group decided that it shouldn't end this way. We will make another trip to a country where we can have the license in our hands (not a DXCC where you need to go pick it up locally). An application has been made to INDOTEL, telecom of the Dominican Republic to get a license valid for one year, allowing portable operation in the Santo Domingo and Puerto Plata area. The application was supported by HI8ROX and delivered to the telecom department. They promised word within the week. Rafael is an old time friend, which I have met several times and he is reliable. I have received permission to use the garden from HI3NR to put up a 2 yagi system for 70 cm EME. Edwin is another local friend, with a nice house and garden up hill. Our German friends DH1NM and DH5FS, who shared our bad luck in Mauritius are interested in joining once again. I believe we still need some extra operators, there is too much weight (225 kg to 3B8) to be carried across by only 4 ops. We plan to book in a all inclusive hotel with air-conditioning! So that those taking wives or girlfriends can enjoy some comfort as well. At least cost of the trip will be known well in advance. The 3B8 trip was over 7000 Euros for the 4 ops together. There is a genuine interest from HI8ROX to get started on EME, and I plan to get him involved. I've heard people complaining about low activity on 70 cm EME, so here is your chance to get some *expeditioning* started on the band and try to expand it to 2m as well. [What about 23 cm?] I also want to express our thanks to DL9KR for the loan of the 70 cm preamp.

DL1YMK: Michael DL1YMK@aol.com worked during the SSB contest on 15 Feb at 1850 HB9BB (57/52) JN, 1904 HB9Q (55/53) JN, 1911 F2TU (53/52) JN, 1915 F6KHM (53/56) IN, 2003 LX1DB (56/54) JN, 2010 OZ6OL (54/54) JO, 2015 G4CCH (55/53) IO, 2025 GW3XYW (54/33) IO, 0134 K5JL (54/54) EM, 0139 KOYW (54/54) DM, 0144 OE9XXI (56/44) JN, 0159 K2UYH (54/54) FN, 0259 W5LU (559/559) EM and 0312 DF4PV (559/559) JN. He expressed surprise at working 12 SSB stations with only his 3.8 m dish and 500 W at the feed. His contest score was 12 x 7 x 2 = 168 points.

DL4KG: Gerald's znoyek@t-online.de latest 432 MHz activity report-- In Jan I worked on 432 EME SK0CC and EA3DXU via the JT44 mode. Both QSOs were complete after 20 minutes. In Feb I worked KJ7F on JT44 and also complete in 20 minutes. On 4 March I completed a JT44 QSO with DF4UE who lives 23 km from me. At first we had some problems to separate the moon signal from the tropo signal, but we choose a sked time with a Doppler shift of -700 Hz. We both moved the sync signal out of the center of the JT44 receiving window. So we could eliminate the tropo signal and finished the QSO after 19 minutes. A few days later (8 March) I worked KE2N on JT44 for initial #84 and US state 21 on 432. During the EWW EME contest I worked on 70 cm VK3UM, OZ4MM, HB9Q, DL9KR, G3LTF, F6KHM, F2TU and SM2CEW. Signals were mixed. DL9KR was especially weak compared to the signals I normally hear from him. I think that I have a noise problem from the neighborhood. During all my JT44 QSOs, stations have reported much better copy of my signals than I received

from them. Also my JT44 echo tests show lower values than other stations have reported with similar or smaller stations.



OK1KIR's new 10 GHz System – see their report.

DL7APV: Bernd DL7APV@t-online.de was on 70 cm EME in March for the first time since the ARRL contest– The rig worked perfect, but the operator had an injured back. I was consequently on only for a short time. I worked VK3UM, KL6M (to my east!), VK4AFL, G3LTF and JA6AHB. Condx in Eur were vertical most of the time. The signals from JA were very good. Activity seemed better than in the last ARRL Contest. Due to a change in job, I'm driving 150 km per day and this is effecting my ham radio time.

DL7UDA: Dietmar dl7uda@t-online.de reports on 70 cm in the 1st part of the EWW EME Contest -- I was QRV starting Saturday at 1730 for about 8 hours. Because my new PA is not finished, I used my old G17B PA with 300 W out. I worked F6KHM (O/O) for initial #9 and HB9Q (O/429). Heard were HB9SV, HB9JAW, K1FO and not so strong as usual DL9KR. Sunday morning I checked my antennas and found a broken connection at one of the yagi feeds. So, I was glad to have worked the 2 QSOs with 3 antennas and 300 W!

F2TU: Philippe f2tu@guideo.fr reports on the first part of EWW EME Contest – On 70 cm I completed 41 QSOs, on 13 cm 13 QSOs with SM3AKW, HB9SV, OE9XXI, G3LTF, OZ4MM, JA4BLC, ZS6AXT, OK1CA, OK1UWA, IK2RTI, G3LQR, N8OU for an initial and GW3XWY for another initial, and on 6 cm 5 QSOs with CT1DMK, IK2RTI, JA7BMB, ZS6AXT and LX1DB. In the second part I will operate on 23 and 3 cm. I will be on 10368.200 for the NA window on Saturday 12 April from 2200 to 0100 Sunday. Other windows are possible

for Eur. It is necessary to change the feed for switched between 23 and 3 cm (about 15 min.).

FY5DG: Chris Christian.Albrieux@cnes.fr is installing a EME station in Kourou, French Guiana -- I am already QRV to listen and intend to be fully operational within 2 or 3 months. During the EWW EME Contest I heard a lot of Eur stations: HB, F, OE, DL, etc. As soon I am ready I can sked everyone needing an EME contact with an FY station. The equipment is 4 x DJ9BV 6 m long yagis with open wire feeder, 0.4 dB NF LNA and 2 x GI7B PA (To be completed).

G3LQR: Simon G3LQR@aol.com EWW EME Contest report follows – I spend a few hours on 13 cm in EWW Contest, but system seemed to be down somewhat on TX. I only worked 6 stations: G3LTF, F2TU, OZ4MM, SM3AKW, GW3XYW and OE9XXI. A few others were also heard. Echoes were very poor compared to last time even though I had improved my LUA and am now using an NE325 first stage. I can now hear (see) a little moon noise with my 4.2 m dish. Power at the feed is about 40 W. I only worked 2 stations on 432: VK3UM and HB9Q using my 8 yagis, which are still not up to snuff. Others were heard but not called. I am going to make a big effort to get some more gain out of these yagis. I receive more sun noise from my 4.2 m dish on 432 (11 dB) than with yagis (9 dB) with a flux at 100. I will be on 23 cm next month, but miss Sunday as I am going to a flea market in morning.

G3LTF: Peter's 100633.1656@compuserve.com March EME report – For once we had good EME conditions with good WX, no wind and clear skies. On 432 signals were good for most of the time, but the level of US activity on both 70 and 13 was disappointing; however, I added 7 initials on 432! On 432 I worked on the 14th SM3BYA for initial #366 and on the 15th K1FO, SM3AKW, OZ6OL, RA3LE, YU1EV #367, SM3BYA, UA3PTW, SP6JLW #368, F2TU, KL6M, K4QI, S52CW, WA4NJP, N9AB, G4RGK, JA6AHB, DJ3FI, DF3RU, HB9Q, DL4KG #369, EA3DXU, OZ4MM, DL9KR, DJ6MB, F6KHM, HB9SV, G4YTL, HB9JAW, KE2N, OE5EYGM, VE6TA and K0RZ, and on the 16th K9KFR, VK3UM, VK4AFL, SM2CEW, I5CTE, SK0CC, UT3LL, DL7APV, G4ALH, EA3DXU (dup), JR9NWC #370, PA3CSG, OK2BDQ, PA0BAT #371, SM5IOT#372 and OE9ERC for a total of 46x24. CWNR were G3HUL, ON5OF, JA2TY and KJ7F. Heard were DJ7GK, G3LQR, KL7HFQ and K4EME. On 13 cm I worked on the 15th OE9XXI, HB9SV, F2TU, SM3AKW, OZ4MM, ZS6AXT, G3LQR, OK1CA, and on the 16th GW3XYW for a total of 9x9. CWNR were OK1UWA, JA4BLC and N8OU. This is the highest 13 cm score ever for me. Activity is increasing, albeit slowly, and cross band operation is becoming more frequent and easier to achieve. I look forward to the next leg when I shall be on 23 and 2 m. After the contest on 18 March, I had a sked with N8OU on 13 cm and completed for initial #22 (559/449) crossband.

G4CCH: Howard howard.ling@g4cch.com was active on 1296 during the March SW – Conditions seemed good on 15 March and I worked K5GW (579/579) - peaking (599) and W2UHI (569/579). My echoes were (579) with 650 W and detectable with 10 W. I quit at 0000 as didn't hear anyone else.

G4RGK: Dave g4rgk@hdeng.freesserve.co.uk was active during the EWW EME Contest weekend – I was QRV for about 4 hours on the first pass, 6 hours second pass and 4 hours on Sunday evening. I found conditions were excellent most of the time. I worked a total of 33 stations as follows: RA3LE, K4QI, K1FO, F6KHM, WA4NJP, OZ6OL, KL6M, F2TU, S52CW, G3LTF, VK3UM, JA6AHB, HB9Q, OZ4MM, DF3RU, UA3PTW, OE9ERC, HB9SV, DL9KR, HB9JAW, SM3AKW, K0RZ, OE5EYGM, N9AB, KE2N, K9KFR, SM5IOT, ON5OF, EA3DXU, K07N, VK4AFL, SM2CEW, SM5IOT (dup) and DJ3FI. Gottaways were PA3CSG, DJ6MB, JJ1NNJ, IN3AGI, PA2CHR, SP6JLW and OK2BDQ. I am in the initial stages of getting a station together for 23 cm. This will have to be, more or less portable as I have local neighbor restrictions. The mount is being fabricated at the moment. Then I start work on a dish. [I suggest you contact N2UO to see how he hides his dish behind the house and rolls it out when he operates.]

GM4PLM: Simon has just taken delivery of a new antenna, a 16'Pioneer mesh dish, tower mount, positioner and US digital readouts - all supplied FOC as a surplus item from a company in Switzerland – I had to go collect it all using a big van, but its here now back in Scotland and work can now start reassembling this monster! The dish is less than 2 years old and in very good condition - the tower section is a pyramid shaped object and an Az mount sits on the top of it around 3 m about the ground. The whole thing is 'Clyde' built as they say in GM and very heavy - nearly 1000 Kg for the whole thing. The unit is fully steerable to 0.1 deg resolution using US Digital A2 encoders - I even managed to grab the PC interface for the SEI outputs of the encoders. The unit was a part of a C band TVRO station, but replaced by a smaller 3.7 m fiberglass one. They also donated

to me a 3.7 m fiberglass Ku band dish too. It is minus a tripod, but I can put something together for it. I will probably use that for 10 GHz EME, although the mesh on the 16' is OK to 12 GHz.



GM4PLM picking up his new dish in Switzerland

GW3XYW: Stu gw3xyw@thersgb.net EME activity report for March – On 13 March I ran what may be the 1st JT44 echo tests on 13 cm. TX power was 8 W approx. For N=20 scans, L=2.3 dB, Sig=-30.0 dB, DF=-36.3, Width=5.4 and Q=5. I was QRV on Saturday 15 March, but nothing was copied (except my own echoes). After chatting with G3LTF, it turned out that I was on the wrong frequency at a time when everybody else was QRT! I did better on the 16th and QSO'd G3LTF (549/559), OZ4MM (549/549), F2TU (549/559), ZS6AXT (449/559), OE9XXI (569/569) and G3LQR (439/549). I was using an OZ9CR two tube PA with G3LTF mods, which give more output and shows better stability in operation. My intention is to stay QRV on 13 cm for some months, while hoping to re-activate the 2.7 m dish for 10 GHz by April.

HB9JAW: Michel HB9JAW@Kaktus.ch sends his EWW EME Contest Report -- I was on Saturday night for only 2.5 hours due to business activity. Conditions seemed very good. Echoes were very strong at times and detectable with <5 W. Eur stations were copied nearly all the time on H and NA on V pol. Stations worked were: F6KHM (579/0) for an initial (#), OZ6OL (559/579) #, DL9KR (599/599), UA3PTW (559/559), OE5EYGM (559/559), G4RGK (559/569), HB9SV (579/569), OE9ERC (559/569) #, G3LTF (559/569), OZ4MM (559/579) #, N9AB (559/569), DJ3FI (559/559), RA3LE (559/569), S52CW (559/559), SM3AKW (559/579) #, WB0GGM (0/0) #, VE6TA (559/579), K4QI (559/569) #, WA4NJP (559/559) # and S53J (0/0) #, then my final stage gave up and forced me to QRT. Sunday night I was QRV again, but with only 50 W. I added F2TU (559/449) and CWNR K1FO, KU4F, KE2N and K9KFR. I had a lot of fun during the contest weekend. Some ham friends of mine visited and were much impressed by the signals I received off the moon. It seemed like I was working on HF! Activity during this contest seemed much better than during the ARRL Contest.

HB9Q: Dan hb9crg@hb9q.ch writes -- After lots of hours analyzing (many thanks to Dominique, HB9BBB for his help), we finally are starting to get better results on 432. We will continue to work on the feed system. There are still many areas where we can improve the system. We enjoyed very much operating during the EWW EME Contest last weekend. Conditions seemed to be quite good and even activity was not to bad. We worked the following stations (all random): KL6M, UA3PTW, RA3LE, OK2BDQ, VK3UM, SK0CC, DL9KR, SM3AKW, DL4KG, DJ6MB, G3HUL, F6KHM, DJ3FI, S52CW, OE5IFL, JJ1NNJ, OZ6OL, OE3JPC, JA6AHB, IN3AGI, PA3CHR, G4ALH, EA3DXU, G4RGK, G3LTF, F2TU, DK3WG, G4YTL, HB9SV, S51ZO, YO2IS, UA9FAD, OE9ERC, SP6JLW, OM1TL, YU1EV, PA0BAT, K1FO, DF3RU, OZ4MM, SMSIOT, WB0GGM, WA4NJP, F6HZL, OE5EYGM, DJ7GK, KE2N, VE6TA, N9AB, DL7UDA, K4QI, KJ7F, K4EME, JR9NWC, KL7HFQ, VK4AFL, JA2TY, I5CTE, G3LQR, S53J, ON5OF, SM2CEW, PA3DZL and DL5LF for 64 x 31 = 198,400 points. Our next activity will be for the contest 12/13 April on 144 and 1296.

JJ1NNJ: Kouichi's BYD01531@nifty.ne.jp March contest report -- I worked on 70 cm on 15 Mar JA6AHB (559/549), KL6M (O/O), HB9Q (569/559), DL9KR (579/559), F6KHM (O/O) for initial (#), UA3PTW (O/O) and F2TU

(O/O). The 2nd day of the contest during the Eur window, I woke up so late that the moon was behind my house! My second child was born at 3rd March. She is my first daughter. (The day of 3rd March is daughter's day in Japan – Hi!) I am very happy and very busy, but must wash dishes, make milk for baby, etc, so I can't concentrate on the contest too much. [Congradualtions!]

K0YW: Bruce k0yw@frontier.net reports K5GW, G4CCH, W2UHI, DF4PV and K5JL had big signals on 23 cm during the March SW.

K3FB: Chris rfdude@comcast.net writes -- I subscribed to the EME NL and was working on a 70 EME station in the early 80s, but stopped to finish my education and pickup an EE PhD. I am now building up a station again. Unfortunately this winter I had another setback. The latest heavy snow collapsed my 18' dish - it was surplus from Collins Radio. It survived all these years only to be lost at this new try! I am determined to move on regardless of this setback. I am trying to find a replacement dish. Unfortunately I can't find any surplus sources. My dish was obtained on auction from the Univ. of MD Radio Astronomy Dept. including a WWII Crysler radar mount and a 15' tall steel pedestal in the early 80s. Are there any surplus antenna sources you can suggest? [See the for sale sections of past NLs. Many are available.] My 18' dish was a smaller aluminum version of the Kennedy dishes. Is a 18-20' too marginal? [No – many stations using dishes of this size have worked WAS and WAC on 70 cm.] The steel pedestal with 4 cubic yards of concrete is only about 12-15' off the ground. How tall is your pedestal? [Mine is only 14'.] I am determined to be on EME within the year. This is my resolve! I am located at 10187 Owen Brown Rd, Columbia, MD 21044. Do you know of any active EME hams in the Baltimore/Washington area I can contact? [Try [K3LFO@ARRL.NET](mailto:k3lfo@arrl.net) and KB3PD_kb3pd@hotmail.com.]



K3FB's dish disaster

K7XQ: Jeff k7xq@elite.net reports of his recent EME efforts – Prior to the SW, I did not work SW2CEW on 1296 because he lost his preamp a few minutes before the sked. However, I did work SM3AKW who listened and called for me at the same time. I also worked K5JL with the new preamp and all sounds good. I am now using now a FT-726R (with low RX IF gain, which is ok because I now don't have to pad down the RX IF gain. This allows me to free up my FT-847 for multi-band operation on EME. I also lost my 432 preamp, while in a JT44 QSO with K1OLE. Just before the SW, I had another bad failure. My sequencer that connects virtually all of the EME preamps and power amplifier controls on all the EME bands went kaput. It caused several fatal preamp failures as well. As a result, I built a system of sequential controlled relays to key the preamps and power amp controls. The preamp relay controls the relay to the power amp relays so that if the preamp relay fails, it will prevent the power amps from turning on.

KL6M: Mike elum@customcpu.com was active on 432 during the EWW Contest – I could only work about 9 hours total due to winds. QSO'd were DJ3FI, UA3PTW, G4RGK, G3LTF, RA3LE, OZ6OL, SP6JLW for initial (#), F6KHM, K1FO, WA4NJP, JA6AHB, JJ1NNJ, VK3UM, SM3AKW, OZ4MM, HB9Q, DL7APV, OK2BDQ #, DL9KR, PA3CSG, DF3RU, VK4AFL, OE5JFL, IN3AGI #, K0RZ, SM5IOT #, K4QI, S52CW, EA3DXU, OE9ERC, N9AB, ON5OF and KU4F for 34x22 or 74,800 points. I will try to make it back on 23 cm for the 2nd part of the contest, if not I will certainly be on 70 cm.

OK1CA: Franta ok1ca@ges.cz was active on 13 cm during the contest – We worked only on 15 March on 2304 F2TU (559/559), OE9XXI (579/559), OZ4MM (569/549), OK1UWA (449/O), IK2RTI (O/O) for initial #20 and on

2320 G3LTF (559/559). I also heard SM3AKW on 2320, but no JA stations on 2424. I plan will be QRV on 23 cm during April part of EWW EME Contest.

OK1KIR: Tonda ok1vao@quick.cz, Vlada, Jirka and Jan send big news! – We started to build up new antenna system for 3 cm back in Nov 2001. Our plan was to be QRV before EME conference. Preparation for the conference was more demanding than we thought and then the floods delayed our work. We started again in the winter and now should be QRV in the second part of contest on 10 GHz with the new system. (BTW the 10 GHz rig is the only equipment that has not under water in the flood.) The antenna is from a meteorological radar (MRL5). It is 4.5 m, 0.42 f/d dish, and is located on top of a 7 m high, 5 ton heavy iron tower anchored in more than 18 cubic meters of concrete. The dish feed is about 10 m above ground. New dc motors and sensors were installed. The F1EHN/VE1ALQ SW/HW is used for tracking with sensors giving 40,000 pulses for 360 degs for both the azimuth and for elevation. The system resolution is better than 0.01 degs and the motors track the moon with a deviation better than +/- 0.03 deg. We spent a couple of weekends finding the proper position for the feed. Two small dc motors and long screws were used to move the feed to assist in this project. We took the first measurement on 15 March with the following results: G/CS ~ 6 dB, Sun Noise ~ 20 dB (SF 136), Moon Noise ~ 3.9 dB, Cassiopeia A ~ 0.2-0.3 dB and Taurus A ~ 0.1-0.2 dB.

OZ4M: Stig's vestergaard@os.dk March NL report-- I was able to spent time operating in the EWW EME Contest, and was QRV on both 13 cm an 70 cm, but not "full time". Activity was good on both 13 and 70 from Eur, but very few were found from stateside. On 13 cm I worked F2TU, OK1UWA, G3LTF, ZS6AXT, SM3AKW, OE9XXI, OK1CA, N8OU, G3LQR and GW3XYW for a total of 10x8. On 70 cm I QSO'd VK3UM, KL6M, VK4AFL, DL4KG, RA3LE, DJ6MB, DJ6MB, OK2BDQ, G4RGK, SK0CC, DF3RU, JA6AHB, UA9FAD, HB9SV, F6KHM, G3LTF, UA3PTW, EA3DXU, YO2IS, SM3AKW, G3HUL, PA0BAT, K1FO, DJ3FI, OE3JPC, HB9Q, OZ6OL, SM5IOT, DL9KR, S52CW, OE5EYMM, WB0GGM, OE9ERC, WA4NJP, G4YTL, DJ7GK, K4QI, VE6TA, HB9JAW, K9KFR, ON5OF, K0RZ, N9AB, S53J, PA2CHR, SP6JLW, IN3AGI, KJ7F, KE2N, YU1EV, JR9NWC, KL7HFQ, PA3CSG, JA2TY, UT3LL, F2TU, SM2CEW, DL5LF, DF3RU and G4ALH for 58 stations. On the first day until approx 180 deg AZ, I found complete pol lockout. I worked most stations from Eur on vertical pol, but otherwise in general found good condx. During the night I had bad QRM from the neighborhood. A broad signal covered the bottom of 70 cm. I have to find out what's making this QRM, but I believe it's my neighbor's satellite receiver. Has anyone experienced QRM from satellite TV on 70cm? I plan to be on 1296 in April for contest too, but only with limited time.

OZ9AAR: Carsten chg@logicio.com is just about ready for operat ion on 23 cm. His new dish is tracking the moon and almost ready. He is waiting for a feedhorn. He is also still working on a TH-327 PA, but will start operation with a 2 x 7289 VE1ALQ amp with 200 W.

PA0PLY: Jan jan.kappert@comtestnl.com wants to let everyone know he is still not QRV on 432, but hopes to be back on soon. His new shack is ready, but Jan needs to adjust the driver output for his K2RIW, which is now at a remote location. He also notes that he had serious problems transferring his my website from Frontpage 98 to Frontpage 2000 (new computer), but that it is now running again and contains the latest EME directory. The BV project will be concluded by end of May and looks promising.

RA3LE: Valeri tumbler@sci.smolensk.ru was QRV on 432 in the EWW contest and made initial QSOs with OE9ERC and K9KFR. He also had a partial with KJ7F in sked – heard (559) but not complete.

SK0CC: Sven sven.o.nordin@telia.com reports problems during the March contest on 432 – I worked only 7 stations in 16 hours due to terrible man made noise. It had a pulsed SinX over X" distribution peaking every 10 kHz at S7 to S9! He says that there are at least 10 base stations (also digital and 3 GHz) in a radius of 1 km and an FM broadcast TX on 108 MHz. Sven is very frustrated!

UA3PTW: Dmitrij ua3ptw@bogorod.tula.net was QRV in March for the EWW EME Contest and contacted OE9ERC, YU1EV and S51ZO for initials to bring him to #122. Dmitrij's contest score was 46x31 for 142,600 points.

UA9FAD: Viktor rosmet@perm.raid.ru is set up for JT44 on 144 EME, but thus far only operated CW on 70 cm. He worked during the Eur contest in March F6KHM for an initial (#), HB9Q, OZ4MM and UA3PTW.

VK3UM: Doug tikaluna@vcs.com.au reports -- Conditions seemed quite stable and I found only minimal libration fading during my moonrise on both days. Pol was about 45 degs into Eur for the most part on 15 March, but very pronounced (90 deg shift) on the 16th. There were short periods of deep fading, but these

seemed rare. Overall, although there was solar activity and Aurora evident on HF, 70 cm was "normal to good." Activity was very good into Eur and I was kept very busy as evident by the log. Unfortunately the same could not be said for the NA where there was only one station on for both days of my moonrise. Operating practices were just excellent and I had a very enjoyable activity weekend. I managed to work 3 new Stations during the period and renewed acquaintances with several "oldies". Although activity was very much down into the USA, (and that is not an over statement!), I managed more QSOs and multipliers than last year. My final claimed score is 44x22 = 96,800 points for operating time of about 5 hours. I worked on 15 March at 1255 UA3PTW (559/569), 1259 KL6M (559/559), 1305 SM3AKW (559/569), 1309 RA3LE (559/569), 1341 UT3LL (339/O), 1347 DL7APV (559/559), 1359 OZ4MM (559/449), 1407 F2TU (559/559), 1416 SP6JLW (559/559), 1421 VK4AFL (559/559), 1427 DL4KG (549/559), 1432 DJ6MB (559/559), 1446 HB9Q (559/559), 1450 DL9KR (579/579), 1456 SM2BYA (559/559), 1500 OK2BDQ (559/559), 1507 PA3CSG (559/559), 1513 DJ3FI (559/449), 1523 S52CW (559/559), 1529 F6KHM (559/559), 1536 OZ6OL (559/569), 1542 OE3JPC (559/559), 1552 OE5JFL (559/569), 1556 DF3RU (559/579), 1600 G4RGK (549/559), 15CTE (549/559), 1611 IN3AGI (549/559), 1617 EA3DXU (559/559), 1622 G4ALH (539/549), 1637 PA2CHR (549/559), 1645 DL8OBU (539/539) and 1652 DK3WG (559/569), and 16 March at 0812 JH6AHB (539/559), 0817 JR9NNC (539/449), 1529 SK0CC (539/539), 1600 DF9RJ (539/O), 1628 PA0BAT (439/559), 1636 F6HYE (559/449), 1642 G3LTF (559/559), 1700 G3LQR (549/559), 1705 SM2CEW (559/559), 1716 ON5OF (559/569), 1723 DL2OM (539/O) and 1730 YU1EV (539/559). There were many repeats not listed above as we "chewed the fat" during rare slack periods! The contest was very enjoyable and thanks to all those that came on. I don't think I missed anyone that may have called.

W2UHI: Frank fblumn@pathwaynet.com was active on 1296 during the March SW. He reports good conditions, but not a lot of activity. He worked K5GW, G4CCH, K0YW, DF4PV and K5JL.

WA4NJP: Ray wa4njp@bellsouth.net was QRV on 432 for the EWW EME Contest with only 200 W, but still made a number of QSOs. OE9ERC called but was covered up by QRM, but he managed to work WB0GGM through it. Things went well until at 0107 something happened to xmit feedline. As a result KJ7F, ON5OF and S53J got away. Ray will on 23 cm in April with 100 W.

ZS6AXT: Ivo's zs6axt@global.co.za report for the first part of the EWW EME Contest -- The weather was perfect here, but my equipment did not cooperate well. Still I managed to work 8 stations on 13 cm and 2 on 6 cm with one CWNR on each band. Saturday, 15 March I worked on 13 cm F2TU, OZ4MM, OE9XXI, HB9SV, SM3AKW, G3LTF and IK2RTI. GW3XYW was added to this list on Sunday. N8OU appeared just before my moonset and CWNR. Most of the stations were with good signals. On the 6 cm band, I worked on Sunday F2TU and CT1DMK, while LX1DB was CWNR many times. All three stations were received with good signals. I did not manage to install the new 6 cm septum horn. I did manage to exchange the first stage preamp in the feed and that helped. I note that not many stations from JA and NA were heard in the contest, which is a pity.

K2UYH: I have little to report this month because I was away on travel during the Activity/contest weekend. I had asked Marc, N2UO to cover my 3B8/ON4AME skeds, but because of the cancellation of the dxpedition he never operated my station. During the post SW, I tried again on 70 cm with VK3FMD on JT44. Charlie copied me FB, but I heard nothing from him. I have added a GPS frequency standard, so I should have minimum frequency error (near Rubidium standard) in the future. [For more information see QST, July 1998, pp. 37-43.]

NETNEWS BY G4RGK BASED ON K1RQG NETNOTES: BY4BJA from information sent by WA4NJP is presently involved with ATV, but plans to try EME again in the near future. **KG6FCB** has a new e-mail address kg6fcb@netzero.net. **IK2MMB** will be QRV on 1296 during the Eur contest in April. **DK3WG** was QRV on 70 cm during the March contest for a short time, but added no initials. **N7AM** all systems are go on 23 cm, except that the GR-1236 if amp (for noise measurement) is not working correctly. **F6KHM** now has his new QSL cards from printer and will be sending out direct soon. [I received one. It is a *beaut!*]. **WA1JOF** is looking for tips on how to measure insertion loss and isolation with minimal test equipment. [Put a short at the output of the (passive) item under test. One half the dB ratio between the forward and reflective power is the insertion loss]. **W2DRZ** is still working on his tracking system for 23 cm EME. **9H1ES** is still waiting for Teflon and a solid state 70 cm 100 W driver amplifier, before he can be QRV on EME. **KJ7F** worked K1OLE on 70 cm EME in March using JT44. **K1OLE** ki0le@cp.duluth.mn.us is

QRV on 432 EME from near Duluth MN (EN36us). Bryce has 4 x 19 el yagis with full elevation and 450 W PA. **W4OP** is making progress on a paper on hybrid combiners for solid state amps to be presented at the SVHF Conference in Huntsville, AL. **K6DV** lost the elevation drive when his dish filled up with snow and needs to do repairs. **PA3CSG** added G4YTL on 432 in March. **WB7QBF**, Glenn is interested in 70 cm EME. **KA0Y** easily worked ZL1KA on 1296 in March. **KORZ** was QRV on 70 cm in the contest and added 2 initials with SP6JLW and SM5IOT. **DL9KR** was active in the Eur contest on 432, but has not sent in his score. **W7CI** w7ci@aol.com was not QRV in March due to high winds. **W4AD** will attempt to be on 10 GHz during April contest weekend.

FOR SALE: **HB9JAW** HB9JAW@Kaktus.ch is in need of Mica, Ultem or Glimmersheet sheets to repair his 70 cm PA - (see Michel's report). He needs 3 sheets of 20 x 20 cm x 0.1 mm thick. Can anybody help out or know where to order this material in small quantities. Michel is also looking for TH 331s. **W2SC** has a 4 x 7289 cavity (by K2AH) for sale. He says he has no need for this amp, since he is getting a 6 tube cavity. This "package" includes the 4 tube K2AH cavity with 4 tubes and water jackets installed, a C3I bias board, filament transformers and 24 V transformer. All is NEW, never assembled and fired up. He is asking \$US1,200 plus shipping. **W1ZX ESTATE** has for sale YAESU FT-736R (50 & 1296 MHz modules), YAESU FT-736R (1296 MHz module), two TS-870s, YAESU FT-900, TR-7 with PS-7 mic and speaker, LUNAR LINK LA-70B and PS-70 power supply. Please respond to JOE at k1rqq@aol.com. **W7CI** is looking for schematics for microwave modules 1296 MMT-1296 and a replacement device for the PA transistor. Steve's email is w7ci@aol.com.

TECHNICAL: N7AM suggests the following Dish Deicer idea: Here in the NW we get snow occasionally and it is very heavy with moisture when it comes. We use here a 5 kW heater built into the dish utilizing a heating element that runs along the ribs and cross members. When we were experimenting with the heater and dish on the ground, we learned that when we had 10.5" of snow on the ground, the dish had only 5 inches of snow. The heater element has 12 ohms resistance when it draws 5 kW. Using 240 volts ac, we have learned this element keeps the dish temperature above freezing and dissipates 5 kW of heat in the ribs and cross members. The heater element is attached to the underside of the dish allowing the dish to be turned with its backside of the snow. It does a nice job of keeping the snow off.

FINAL: I recently heard from Mark (WA2VVA) son **W2CXY**. W2CXY, who passed away last July, was the NA states leader on 144 MHz for many years. He was also interested in 1296 Moonbounce and actually succeeded in receiving echoes off the moon as early as 1959/1960. W2CXY had one of the original Eimac 1296 Klyston amplifiers. Marc Wncmorrison@aol.com now has possession of this historic amplifier and is trying to decide what to do with it. If anyone has any ideas please contact Mark.

-- **K2DH** has been assigned the job of updating the EME section of the ARRL's Antenna Book. Dave is looking for documented EME antenna construction notes, etc. Send them to k2dh@arrl.net with attachments.

-- **G4RGK** has come up with the following list od stations active on 70 cm during the EWW EME Contest: DF3RU, DJ3FI, DJ6MB, DJ7GK, DK3WG, DL4KG, DL5LF, DL7UDA, DL9KR, EA3DXU, F2TU, F6HZL, F6KHM, G3HUL, G3LQR, G3LTF, G4ALH, G4RGK, G4YTL, HB9JAW, HB9Q, HB9SV, 15CTE, IN3AGI, JJ1NNJ, JA2TY, JA6AHB, JR9NWC, K0RZ, K1FO, KE2N, K4EME, K4QI, KL6M, KJ7F, KL7HFQ, K07N, K9KFR, N9AB, OE5EYME, OE5JFL, OE9ERC, OK2BDQ, OM1TL, ON5OF, OZ4MM, OZ6OL, PA0BAT, PA2CHR, PA3CSG, PA3DZL, RA3LE, SK0CC, SM2CEW, SM3AKW, SM5IOT, SP6JLW, S53J, S52CW, S51ZO, UA3PTW, UA9FAD, VE6TA, VK3UM, VK4AFL, YO2IS, YU1EV, WB0GGM and WA4NJP. His total is 69.

-- Please keep sending the technical material and reports. I was sorry to miss the 70 cm part of the EWW EME Contest, but am planning to on for 1296 in April and will be looking for you off the moon. Don't miss the contest! 73, Al -- K2UYH

SKEDS FOR APRIL

12 APRIL

Time	432.035	432.040
2200z	K2UYH -S53J	
2230z	K2UYH -SM5IOT	
2300z	WB0GGM-G4RGK	K2UYH -PA0BAT
2330z	WB0GGM-SM5IOT	K2UYH -DF4UE

13 APRIL

Time	432.040	1296 .050
0000z	K2UYH -OH4LA	
0030z	K2UYH -KE2N	
0500z		K2UYH -VE7BBG
0530z		K2UYH -ZL1KA